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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 SEP 2004

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claims 1-33. (Canceled)

34. (Previously Presented) An initiator comprising, as constitutive components, a conductive header formed from a conductive metal into a tubular shape; a first lead pin integrally assembled to the conductive header; a second lead pin integrally assembled to a hole formed in the conductive header via an insulating member and penetrating the conductive header and the insulating member; a bridge wire connected between an inner end of the second lead pin and an inner end of the conductive head and generating heat upon supply of electricity thereto; and a cup-shaped casing airtightly fixed, at an open end portion, to an outer circumference of the conductive header and accommodating, in a sealed condition, the bridge wire and an explosive which detonates in response to heat generation of the bridge wire, wherein the hole of the conductive header and the insulating member fitted into the hole have respective taper portions in a region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive header, the taper portions having diameters decreasing with increasing distance from the explosive.

35. (Previously Presented) An initiator according to claim 34, wherein the taper portions are provided over the enter region where the insulating member is joined to the conductive head.

36. (Currently Amended) An initiator according to ~~claim 34 or 35,~~ claim 34, wherein the insulating member is formed of heat- and pressure-resistant glass.

37. (New) An initiator according to claim 35, wherein the insulating member is formed of heat- and pressure-resistant glass.